

Director, Emergency Management

Report to LEPC

20, September 2007

It has been a busy summer and several events and incidents have occurred since the last LEPC meeting. Following is a list of the incidents and events that took place to date:

EXERCISES: Two exercises were conducted this summer; one was the 4th of July Ennis parade and rodeo. This was a full scale exercise that involved multiple jurisdictions, and also local and state involvement. The MT DES Mobile Command Unit was on scene to act as the ICP and with the exception of some communication glitches, the exercise was performed professionally and without any problems. The AAR was performed later and several ideas surfaced to fine tune our actions for the next incident.

The second exercise was a table top involving a HazMat spill at the junction on HWY 287 in Ennis. The AAR showed that we failed in many areas, so a Corrective Action Plan was developed by this Department, Communications Steve DiGiovanna, DPHHS Jill Steele, Sheriff Dave Schenk and Capt Steve Orr. Throughout this meeting it was apparent that rather than trying to train the entire Emergency service volunteer personnel, Madison County will develop an IMT starting with the aforementioned personnel as a core group.

FIRES: There was almost too many fires to count in this report, the EM was on scene at the Hells Canyon Fire, Rochester Basin, Bar Z, Wisconsin Creek fire, Laurin Canyon and even showed for the small grass fire North of Meadow (Ennis) Lake. Every fire that I attended showed me that we have excellent personnel in charge of fighting fires and the fact that we are volunteers even accentuates the excellence.

VEHICLE ACCIDENTS (HAZMAT): D.E.M. was on scene for Mile Marker 13 "hot asphalt" spill. Once again, when it comes to actual response to incidents, our Emergency responders perform brilliantly. Idaho Asphalt appeared the next day and promised clean up. Unfortunately this process went on far too long and after conversing with Bill Stecker of MT DOT, it was decided that this office should write a stern letter "nasty gram" to Idaho Asphalt. This was done and the results were significant enough to motivate the asphalt company to come back and properly clean up the spill. Their clean up process is to be repeated within the next week.

Junction 287 in Ennis was the scene of another wreck where a driver for Miller Bros. Company out of Hyrum, UT drove straight through the stop at the Junction of 287 Mt and US HWY heading south. The load was cattle on the way to slaughter and was within the US so not considered a Hazmat. Once again, an excellent response, please see D.E.M. for report on this incident or any other incidents if you want the details.

PROJECTS/PLANS/PROGRAMS (in the works): D.E.M. has been working on several issues and projects since our last meeting:

In the Hopper:

- First on the list is the creation of the VC Fire District and annexation of Alder Fire District of the unassigned area encompassing 97 square miles surrounding Virginia City. D.E.M. has mailed out an explanation of why this needs to be done and on September 24, the petitions will be mailed or hand delivered to the respective owners to be signed, or not.
- D.E.M. has submitted a grant to CTEP for mitigation purposes for an amount of \$35,000 which will provide D.E.M. with equipment to ascertain the hazards in each area and how to mitigate a plan to be ready for any event. Money has been set aside in this grant if provided for training of up to 25 personnel to operate the equipment. Awards will be granted in November or early December.
- A grant was also submitted to Helping Hands for \$15,000 in funds to help with the enhancement of CERT for training and equipment. No word yet, but you can submit comments on line, please do so if you feel the urge.
- D.E.M. is working with Wayne Redfield and Julie Johnson concerning the PDM. Julie is going to classes and will bring back her newly acquired information to the LEPC.
- D.E.M. has completed the NIMSCAST report for 2007 and has submitted to the state the results.
- D.E.M. has also helped form the Big Sky Emergency Planning group. A meeting was held in Moonlight Basin the end of June and the results were the formation of sub groups to address the various jurisdictional potential hazards. A meeting is to be held in late October or November to go over the group findings.

- It appears that the budget will be ratified by the Board of Commissioners and to that end; the D.E.M. will order two pallets (32 pails to one pallet) of fire foam, one pallet to be sent to MVRFD and the other at Alder FD. These pails will be on hand for each valley (Madison and Ruby) to be picked up by the respective Fire Departments. *When appropriating these pails, please notify the D.E.M of how many were appropriated for billing purposes.
- Together with the Risk Mitigation Coordinator, Joe Husar and Scott McClintic, we were asked to give a talk to residents in the North/South Meadow Creek area on the fire hazards and fuel reduction. This was performed well and there was a good turn out. Also, Joe Husar gave a show up at the Moonlight Basin project concerning the WUI grant; it was very well received successful. D.E.M. has secured another \$20,000 for the 75/25 match grant WUI from Headwaters RC&D and BLM. Joe Husar is working on acquiring new homeowners for contracting under this grant.

Future Moves:

- The following needs to be addressed by the LEPC and D.E.M: PDM, subdivision reg's. Joe Husar and Shawn Christensen have already supplied my office with the suggestions; I just need to bring them before the Commission.
- The flood and wildfire annexes need to be completed, D.E.M will be working on them this fall now that things have slowed a little.
- Formation of an IMT, this is in the works and will continue to be formed and expanded.

CLASSES & APPOINTMENTS:

I have been elected District III V.P. representing (Madison, Broadwater, Jefferson, Beaverhead, Gallatin, Park, Meagher, Sweetgrass, and Lewis & Clark Counties). I also have been appointed to the Senior Advisory Committee to MT DES. This is a great chance to have our voices heard, so if you have any concerns or ideas, submit them to me and I will present to the E Board.

I will be taking the ICS 300 class on Oct 1 & 2. Also, a PIO class is being set up by Capt Steve Orr which will tentatively be held the last week of November. We need 25 participants. See Capt Steve Orr for details.

CERT classes will be held starting September 29th, 2007 @ 0800 in the Virginia City Gymnasium.

The SAC meeting will be held October 5th.